

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF STEPHEN'S COMPUTERS

A sampling of the computer systems that have formed the backdrop to my technological life.



1981

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Apple II

First real encounter with a personal computer - maths class at school and it had a paper card reader!

1983

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Texas Instruments TI99/4a

First home computer. No software was available in NZ so we learnt to programme



1986

IBM PC XT

The transition from mainframe programming (FORTRAN) to the PCs (Turbo Pascal) at university

1987

VAX 11/780

BSD 4.3 UNIX system where I learnt to programme in C, PROLOG, LISP, COBOL and SNOBOL. First Internet, Ingres database and USENET experiences



1988

Apple Macintosh Plus

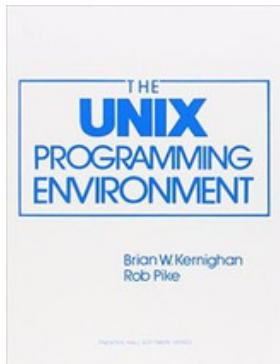
After playing with one of the first Apple Macintosh computers in NZ back in 1984, I purchased a Macintosh Plus. First in series of Apple computers that included an LC, IIsi, PowerBook 520, PowerMac 6100, G3 & G4 iBooks, Mac Mini and a couple of MacBook Pros.



1991

AT&T 3B2

UNIX Sys V and Oracle database. Character-building for someone raised on BSD. Luckily I'd kept my Kernighan & Pike textbook



1996

Apple Powerbook 520c

Passive-matrix screen, but with ethernet and one of the first trackpads. Nice to write on, but no good for games.





## 1997

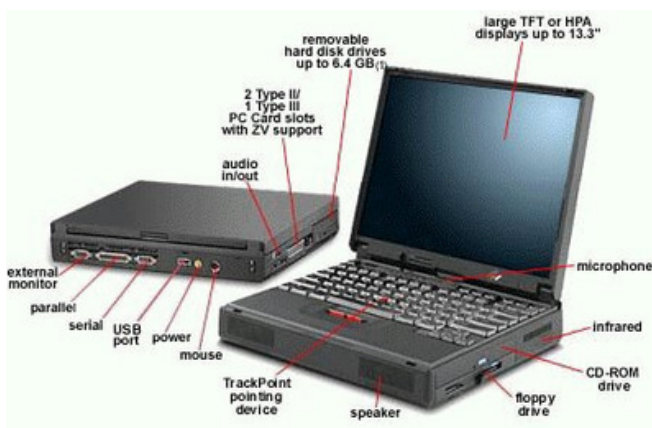
### Packard-Bell Windows 95 PC

Everything a PC shouldn't be. Crippled in so many ways. Mistakes were made; lessons learned.

## 1999

### Apple Powerbook 150

Bought second-hand. With MS Word 5 probably best PC I've had for just writing text. Very sad when it broke and couldn't be fixed



## 2001

### IBM ThinkPad 380XD

Replacement for the PB150. A solid writing machine which became a print server when the screen stopped working well.

## 2002

### Apple 12" G3 iBook

Trusty laptop for five years or so while I did my PhD. Still going today, but needs a new power supply.



## 2008

### Apple 15" MacBook Pro

My workhorse computer for five and a bit years while lecturing at the University of Auckland. Big and heavy, but got the job done for multimedia lecturing.

## 2011

### Acer Aspire X3470

Remarkably good value PC system. The A6-3620 APU with 6530D Crossfire graphics is still running most home PC tasks with relative ease. How a brand-name PC should be.



## 2013

### Apple 13" MacBook Pro

Current laptop used for daily work. Has had more RAM and an SSHD added. Last model with SuperDrive, which I use for DVDs regularly. Starting to struggle a bit, and will be replaced with a Windows laptop at some point.